

On page 4, replace the paragraph beginning with line 16 with:


Other transmission fibers have been designed which exhibit negative dispersion and positive slope over the transmission band. Such fibers are disclosed for example in U.S. Patent 6,091,873 and are conventionally known as negative non-zero dispersion shifted fibers (negative NZDSF), or reverse dispersion fibers (RDF). These fibers exhibit zero dispersion at a wavelength above the "C" band, and typically exhibit positive dispersion slope. One type of RDF exhibits dispersion at 1550 nm of -1.32 ps/nm/km , with a slope of $0.053 \text{ ps/nm}^2/\text{km}$.

A marked up version of the specification is attached herewith. No new matter has been added by this amendment. All amendments are supported in the originally filed specification. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned agent by telephone through the below telephone number if it would in any way aid in the advancement of this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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